

MEDIA AWARENESS NETWORK

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Logical Fallacies

1. Match the following logical fallacies with their correct definitions.

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| 1. Post Hoc Fallacy = _____ | 1. A fallacy that combines two unrelated questions into a question that requires a single answer. |
| 2. Third Cause = _____ | 2. The argument that plays on the idea that "everyone's doing it." |
| 3. Alleged Certainty = _____ | 3. The claim that X caused Y when it can be proved that both X and Y are caused by Z. |
| 4. Complex Question = _____ | 4. An attempt to divert attention away from the question at issue by arguing that a certain decision, if made, would set in motion a series of increasingly severe consequences that, in reality, may or may not occur. |
| 5. Ad Hominem = _____ | 5. A fallacy in which the arguer assumes the point he or she is trying to prove is correct in the first place. |
| 6. Appeal to Authority = _____ | 6. The argument that Y was caused by X solely because Y came after X. |
| 7. Slippery Slope = _____ | 7. A fallacy in which the arguer puts down another's viewpoint based on character flaws that have nothing to do with the arguments at issue. |
| 8. False Dilemma = _____ | 8. A fallacy that presents an issue or problem as if there are only two possible solutions. |
| 9. Appeal to Tradition = _____ | 9. The notion that if some course of action is or is not pursued, terrible consequences will occur. |
| 10. Appeal to Fear = _____ | 10. An argument that uses someone's expertise or authority, even if the argument is unrelated to that person's area of expertise. |
| 11. Appeal to Popularity (Bandwagoning) = _____ | 11. Appeals to the status quo, the assertion that an idea or course of action is good because it's the way things have always been done; appeals to the status quo. |

2. Provide your own examples for three of the logical fallacies listed on this page. (Identify the type of logical fallacy, followed by your example.)

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BONUS QUESTION: Provide an example of a logical fallacy that appeared on one of the Hate sites that you analyzed in class. /3

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